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HOLSWORTHY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HIGH STREET,

HOLSWORTHY.

TEL: Holsworthy 336

Annual Report

of the Medical Officer of Health

1968

Medical Officer of Health	-	E. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	-	C.J. Smith, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector	-	R.D.J. Pyman, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.R.S.H.

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Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1968.

E. WILLIAMS.

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres		97,504
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate)		8,340
Number of inhabited houses		3,043
Number of Council Houses owned		408
Density of persons per house		2.7
Rateable Value (at 31st March, 1968)		£152,598
Value of Penny Rate (Actual Year to 31st March, 1969)		£627.8s.7d.
Area Comparability Factors:-	Births	1.16
	Deaths	0.82

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births -	
Number	121
Rate per 1,000 population	14.5
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp.Factor	16.8
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	4.9%
Stillbirths -	
Number	2
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	16
Total Live and Still Births	123
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	2
Infant Mortality Rates -	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	17
Legit. " " " " Legit. " "	8.7
Illegit." " " " Illegit." "	166.0

VITAL STATISTICS (Contd.)

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	16.5
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	8.2
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	24
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion) -	
Number of Deaths	NIL
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	NIL
Deaths	107
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	12.8
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Factor	10.5

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BIRTHS

During the year there were 121 live births.

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	54	61	115
Illegitimate	1	5	6
			121

Live birth rate per 1,000 population adjusted	14.5
Birth Rate (England and Wales)	16.8

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			2

Still birth rate per 1,000 population	16.

DEATHS

Males	Females	Total
52	55	107

Death rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)	12.8
Death rate (England and Wales)	10.5

CAUSE OF DEATH

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	4	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1
Leukaemia	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms, Etc.	6	4
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	2	-
Chronic Rheumatic Hearth Disease	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	17	10
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	6	12
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	6
Influenza	1	-
Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	-	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc.	-	1
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	-	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1
All Other Accidents	-	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	3	1
	52	55

Deaths occurred in the following age groups:-

Under 1 year	2
1 - 4 years	-
5 - 14 years	-
15 - 24 years	-
25 - 34 years	2
35 - 44 years	3
45 - 54 years	2
55 - 64 years	8
65 - 74 years	29
75+ years	61

Infant Mortality Rate

During the year 2 infants died under the age of 1 year

	Male and Female
Legitimate	- 1
Illegitimate	- 1

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 17

Cancer Deaths

There were 22 deaths from Cancer during the year.

	Male	Female
Stomach	2	2
Lungs and Bronchus	4	1
Breast	-	-
Uterus	-	1
Other	6	4
Leukaemia	1	1
	Total:	22.

Infectious Diseases

Scarlet Fever	3
Measles	3
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1
Erysipelas	1
Whooping Cough	4

There were no cases of tuberculosis notified during the year. There were no cases of food poisoning reported.

Salmonella Infection

Reports of salmonella infection amongst cows and calves on eight farms were reported by the local division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The farms concerned were visited and advised regards possible spread of infection to humans.

Brucella Abortus

Milk samples taken from 5 farms were reported positive on culture for Brucella Abortus organisms. The milk in most cases was pasteurised but in 2 instances the farmers concerned were producer retailers. They were informed of the presence of infection in their herds and with the assistance of their own veterinary officer the infected animals were identified and disposed of.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47 and Amendment Act 1951

This section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons to a County Welfare House. It concerns those who are living alone in insanitary conditions and who are suffering from grave chronic disease and are not receiving proper care and attention from others.

No cases were dealt with under the Section during the year.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting this Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during 1968.

A significant change occurred during the year when the responsibility for refuse collection and disposal was transferred from the Surveyor's Department to this office. The system under which refuse had been collected for some years was reviewed and completely altered in an attempt to implement the recommendations of the Working Party on Refuse Collection, appointed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. One of the objects of reorganising the method of collection was to attain a weekly collection throught the district as far as was reasonably possible. This was achieved in all of the parish centres and approximately 95% of the country districts. However, due to economic circumstances a fortnightly collection had to be arranged for a few isolated places.

Further details regarding refuse collection and disposal are contained in this report.

Although only one licenced slaughterhouse remained in operation in the district a fair amount of time was spent on meat inspection during each week and on Saturdays and Sundays. Charges to the slaughterhouse occupier for this service continued to be made at slightly less than the maximum amounts laid down.

Work in the field of housing continued to take up most of the remaining time available, particularly in connection with Improvement Grants. Although only a few unfit properties were dealt with by formal action there were a number of cases where the opportunity was taken informally to ensure dwellings were brought up to standard at the same time as grant aided works were carried out.

Reports, from the public health aspect, were prepared in respect of Halwill and Pyworthy villages in connection with proposed sewage schemes under preparation for these areas. Copies of both reports were submitted together with the schemes to the Ministry for their consideration.

I extend my gratitude to the Council's Officers and staff for their assistance and co-operation during the year and in particular to Mr. R.D.J. Pyman for his support and loyal service.

C. J. SMITH

Senior Public Health Inspector.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE

	Visits
Meat Inspection	434
Public Health Act	20
Housing Acts	55
Improvement Grants	476
Building Regulations	8
Drainage	51
Water Supplies	24
Refuse Tips	160
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	3
Food Premises	15
Food Inspection	6
Bakehouses	-
Insect Pest and Rodent Control	17
Caravans	4
Disease of Animals	1
Nuisances	75
Factories	-
Petroleum	28
Miscellaneous	25
Compulsory Improvement	4
Infectious Disease	2
Food Sampling	3
Sewers and Sewerage Works	40

HOUSING

The following is a list of houses provided by the Council :-

Pre-war :

Holsworthy -	Forresters Road	17
	Dobles Terrace	6
	Pins Park	8
Milton Damerel -	Venn Green	2
Chilsworthy -	Newcourt	2
Bridgerule -	Littlebridge	2
Pyworthy -	Derriton Road	2
		39

Post-war :

Holsworthy -	Pins Park	10
	Glebeland	120
	Stanhope Close	48
Ashwater -	Manor Park	10
Black Torrington -	Bowhay	10
Bradford -	Queens Park	8
Bradworthy -	Tuckers Park and Westcroft	28
Bridgerule -	Bridgepark	20
Clawton -	Claw Park	14
Halwill -	Holywell Park	12
	Fir Park	2
	Woodlands	6
Chilsworthy -	Quarry Park	4
Milton Damerel -	Venn Green	4
	Beech Park	14
Pyworthy -	Derriton Road	12
	Shortlands	10
Sutcombe -	Square Park	7
Tetcott -	Lana Park	4
Thornbury -	Dennis Close	4
West Putford -	Sessacott	2
		349

Plus Houses taken over from Broadwoodwidger R.D.C.

Jays Cross -	St. Giles	2
Pinslow Cross -	St. Giles	4
Tor View -	Woodley Park	4
Ivy House,	Broadwoodwidger	2
East Panson -	St. Giles	2
Sharon Park -	Virginstow	2
South View -	Box's Shop	2
Moor View,	Tredown	2
		20

Inspections made under the Housing Act, 1957 resulted in Closing Orders being made in respect of 4 properties.

A further 10 properties were brought up to standard by informal action and the owners took advantage of the Standard Grant scheme to include all the required facilities.

Houses completed during the year were :-

a) By the Rural District Council - 60

b) By private enterprise - 27

Number on list at end of 1968 after transfer of new tenancies and removal from list of persons having left the district - 125.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Approval for Standard Grant was given for 48 applications submitted, all of which were for improvement to the full standard. In the majority of cases the provision of a septic tank and for bathroom extension was included. A total of £6,835 was paid in respect of 36 dwellings completed.

Six applications for Discretionary Grant were received during the year and payment for 3 dwellings completed amounted to £1,200.

RENT ACT, 1957

No action was deemed necessary under the Act during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

FOOD HYGIENE (MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, 1966

Inspections under the various regulations were made when premises were visited in connection with other matters. Routine visits to all food premises could not be undertaken due to the amount of time spent on other and more predominant duties. However, 15 visits were made during the year and informal action was taken in the case of a van used for meat delivery which was not equipped with the required facilities.

No prosecutions were deemed necessary during the period under review.

FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA

The following number of Food Premises are subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

a (i)

Bakehouses	2
Bakers Shops	2
Butchers Shops	9
Cafes, Hotels, Restaurants, Fish Salons	8
Confectioners	5
Greengrocers	1
Grocers and Provision Shops	25
Market	1

(ii) The number of premises fitted to comply with regulation 16 (wash hand basins) is 47.

(iii) The number of premises to which regulation 19 (facilities for washing food and equipment) applies is 49.

(iv) The number of premises fitted to comply with regulation 19 is 47.

b Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

No egg pasteurisation plants are in existence within the district.

c Poultry Inspection

There are no known poultry processing premises operating in the area.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

All of the throughput of meat at the only slaughterhouse remaining in the district was inspected by the Department. This involved visits on both Saturdays and Sundays during most weekends in the year. It was not possible for an Inspector to be present whilst slaughtering was carried out as no control over the hours of slaughter have been made by the Council. However, a system operatds whereby the carcase are readily identifiable with the plucks.

The premises concerned fall short, in many respects, of the requirements contained in the legislation referred to above. It became more evident to all persons concerned with this slaughterhouse that more suitable premises and facilities were required. Plans with this aim in mind were under consideration at the end of the year.

Details of the number slaughtered and the parts or organs condemned are given in the table on the following page.

DETAILS OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND PARTS CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	TOTAL
Number Killed	76	nil	73	21564	7814	29527
Number Inspected	76	nil	73	21564	7814	29527
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcases condemned	nil	nil	18	82	10	
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	25	nil	1	1094	742	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci.	32.89	nil	26.02	5.45	9.62	
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcase condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	59	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	nil	nil	nil	nil	.755	
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	
Generalised and totally condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	
Percentage of Bovines inspected affected with Cysticercus Bovis	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

This duty is mainly the responsibility of the Council's Surveyor where existing works are concerned. A number of new schemes drawn up by Consulting Engineers in previous years remained dormant. Surveys of two villages, namely Pyworthy and Halwill, were carried out by this Department in an attempt to find the needs from a public health point of view.

Without question in both cases, particularly Pyworthy, the need was obvious. Although at present the higher part of Pyworthy village has some sewerage facilities the disposal arrangements are grossly inadequate. The lower part of this village has no facilities and sink waste water is frequently seen in open ditches around the various properties.

Antiquated systems of disposal exist at Halwill Junction which again are overloaded. It was also considered that some urgency should be given for the provision of adequate disposal facilities in this case.

Reports were compiled of both circumstances and presented to the appropriate department of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government when a visit was arranged by members and officers of this Council during the early part of the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

As stated in the introduction to this report, this duty became the responsibility of the Public Health Department during 1968.

From the commencement it was obvious that the systems of collection and disposal required many alterations to bring the service into line with modern methods. Hitherto the equipment available comprised two side loading vehicles, one of 10 cu.yds and one of 7 cu. yds. which operated in various parts of the district during the week, conveying refuse to one of the five tips in operation. Each load collected was rather small a number of trips were necessary daily to remove the refuse put out by householders.

As the larger of the two vehicles was required to be replaced, it was decided to purchase a 18/25 cu.yd. vehicle with compression plate and to organise routes which would ensure a full load per day. At the same time disposal at four of the tips was discontinued and the one central site remained as the only place for disposal. Routes in close proximity to this tip were arranged for the 7 cu. yd. side loading vehicle on some days during the week and on other days to supplement the routes for the new larger vehicle during busy periods.

The effect of all this gave a weekly collection to all the main villages and most of the other parts of the district. However, a few more isolated places could only be visited fortnightly. The larger vehicle now does daily trips of between 50 and 70 miles per day with half day free for servicing and cleaning.

Approximately 32 tons of refuse were collected weekly.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL (CONTD.)

Disposal of refuse was continued by crude tipping and open incineration. It was anticipated that controlled tipping or some other method, more acceptable, would be embarked upon during the next financial year.

WATER SUPPLIES

A mains supply of water is available to the majority of the district being supplied by the North Devon Water Board.

Certain isolated properties are still dependant on a well supply and samples are taken for bacteriological analysis on behalf of the occupier whenever the opportunity arises. Invariably the results obtained are very poor and advice to improve the source is given, whenever necessary.

RODENT CONTROL

Periodical baiting and treatment of sewers and refuse tips is undertaken by the Council but no service to the general public is available as the Council do not employ a Rodent Operator.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

37 premises are licenced for petroleum spirit. The revenue to this Council from fees paid during the year amounted to £122.

OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

At the close of the year the number of premises registered under the Act was 84. No premises were newly registered during this period.

The following tables show the position regarding premises covered by the Act.

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of registered premises at the end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	38	nil
Retail Shops	37	nil
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	5	nil
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	4	nil
Fuel Storage Depots	nil	nil
TOTAL:	84	nil

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

		Number of			
(i)	Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1)	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(11)	Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	35	-	-	-
(111)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL:	35	-	-	-